

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Rudbeckia triloba - three-lobed coneflower Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

Rarity Rank: S3/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Range: Eastern half of US and northeastern Canada

Recognition:

- Coarse perennials (or biennials), 0.5 to 1 m tall
- Leaves to 16 cm long and 10 cm wide, variable – often mostly unlobed and usually with a few three-lobed leaves on a single plant
- Flower heads terminate the branches
- Disc flowers dark purple, rays ca 8 and yellow, sometimes with orange bases, 1.5 to 3 cm long

Flowering Time: Peaks in May but flowers may be found well into the summer

Light Requirement: Shade to part shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

FACU – usually occurs in uplands but occasionally found in wetlands

Habitat:

Rich soils of calcareous forests, salt dome hardwood forests, and high sites in bottomland hardwood forests such as natural levees.

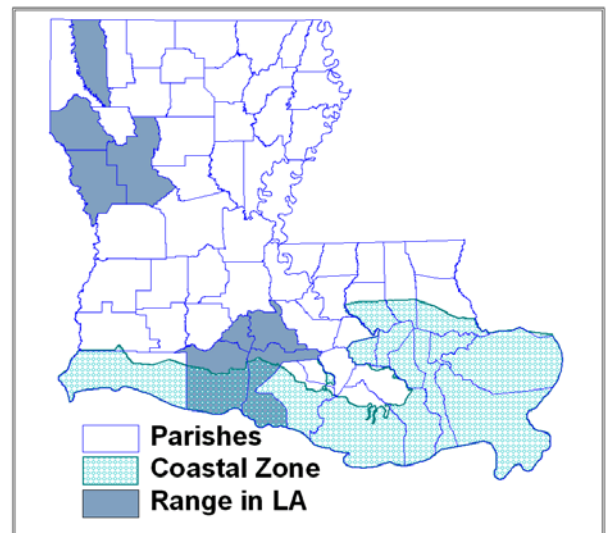
Threats:

- Conversion of natural forests to agriculture (mostly historical)
- Exotic species such as tallow tree and Chinese privet, plus wild hogs

Beneficial Management Practices:

- In general, maintain forest types supporting populations of *R. triloba*
- Permanently protect remaining salt dome hardwood forest
- Control of exotic plants and animals

LA River Basins: Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau, Sabine, Red



Rare Plants of Louisiana



Left: Profusely flowering colony of *R. triloba*, May 2007, De Soto Parish, LA.

Bottom Left: Close-up of flower head

Below: Several flower heads of *R. triloba* terminating stems.



References:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. I: Asteraceae. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 261 pp.

Gandhi, K. N. and R. D. Thomas. 1989. Asteraceae of Louisiana. Sida, Bot. Misc. 4:1-202.

Nelson, G. 2005. East Gulf Coastal Plain wildflowers. The Globe Pequot Press. Guilford, CT. 263 pp.

USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869